

CATHERINE M. FAHEY
Council Member, 7th Ward



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October 18, 2010

Postal Regulatory Commission
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer

OCT 25 2010

A 2011-1

Shoshanna Grove, Secretary of the Commission
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

Re: Appeal of closure of Delaware Station, Albany, NY

Dear Ms. Grove:

Please accept this letter as a petition for review of the United States Postal Service's decision to close the Delaware Station post office, located at 332 Delaware Avenue, Albany, New York 12209.

I am appealing the closure both on behalf of residents who are my constituents and live in the neighborhoods in Albany's 7th Ward and served by the Delaware Station post office, and myself as someone who frequently uses the postal services of the Delaware Station to purchase stamps, mail packages, send registered or certified mail, send large mailings, and rent a post office box. My constituents use the Delaware Station in all the same ways as me and in additional ways that include purchase of domestic and international money orders and wiring funds internationally.

The respondent in this appeal is the United States Postal Service.

The determination that I am appealing is stated in the September 22, 2010 letter(s) from Edward F. Phelan, Jr., District Manager, United States Postal Service, copies of which are enclosed with this petition.

Delaware Station is called a station by the Postal Service, yet it serves as a post office in the ordinary sense of the term. The Postal Regulatory Commission's description of the term "post office" in its orders concerning appeals of post office closings as a retail facility where patrons may purchase postal services, and dispatch and receive mail, accurately describes the Delaware Station. My petition to appeal the determination to close the Delaware Station post office is based in view of this.

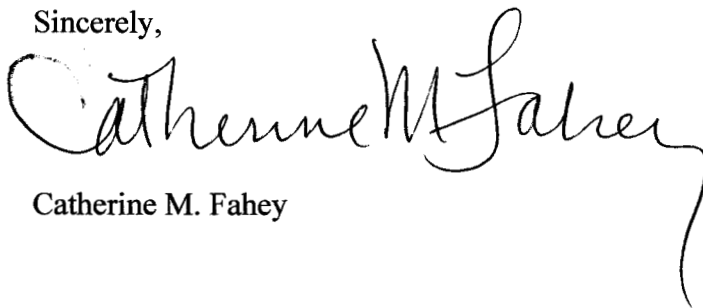
The Postal Service failed to follow the required procedure in notifying customers of the decision to close the Delaware Station post office in significant ways. The September 22, 2010 letter(s) did not inform customers of the opportunity to appeal the determination to close the station. Also, the letter did not adequately address customers' many concerns regarding the impacts closure of the Delaware Station would have including the following:

1. Customers will have difficulty getting to post offices in other locations due to the lack of a vehicle or because of limited access to mass transit;
2. Customers, especially those of limited socio-economic means, cannot afford the additional cost and time required to take public transportation to post offices in other locations. Bus routes in Albany have been consolidated and bus transfers have been eliminated making transportation inconvenient, time consuming and costly.
3. Customers who live in multi-unit dwellings and rent a post office box because of an increased risk of mail theft from their home mail box will have greater difficulty accessing their post office box;
4. Customers who operate home-based businesses that rely on regular usage of postal services will incur additional costs due to increases in time and money to use a post office that is further away;
5. The letter referred customers to online postal services, however, many Delaware Station customers are not computer literate and do not have access to computers.

The decision to close the Delaware Station post office makes no sense in light of recent federal expenditures in the millions of dollars through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to completely reconstruct Delaware Avenue and create a more vibrant, walkable urban neighborhood that is resulting in an increase in small businesses and homeownership. The proposed closure of the Delaware Station post office and removal of its important services is antithetical to governments' efforts to revitalize the area.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this petition to appeal the Postal Service's decision to close the Delaware Station post office. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine M. Fahey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Catherine M. Fahey

Enclosures (Two September 22, 2010 letters)

cc: Jordan M. Small, USPS Vice President, Area Operations, Northeast Area
Ed Phelan, USPS



September 22, 2010

Postal Customer
Albany NY 12209

This is to inform you of the U.S. Postal Service's decision to close the Delaware Station located at 332 Delaware Avenue in Albany NY. We advised you on October 19, 2009 of our intent to conduct a feasibility study and the final decision has been made. This office will be open and operational until December 31, 2010.

Because of the drastic decline in mail volume, the Postal Service is in a fiscal crisis and must take action to reduce the size of its retail and delivery network. By consolidating, streamlining and adjusting our operations, the Postal Service becomes a more efficient and effective organization.

I want to assure you that the community's input was received and carefully considered before making this decision. Ultimately, based on all of the factors involved, the decision was made to proceed with the closure.

Local mail delivery will not be affected by this move. Full retail services will still be available in neighboring offices and our customers will continue to receive the same excellent service they always have.

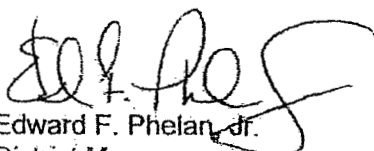
The Post Offices, stations or branches nearest to your residence are located at:

- Academy Station, 563 New Scotland Ave., Albany NY 12208
- Delmar Post Office, 357 Delaware Ave., Delmar NY 12054
- Albany Main Post Office, 45 Hudson Ave., Albany NY 12207

A trip to the Post Office can be skipped altogether and you can purchase stamps and shipping labels online using the Postal Service's website, usps.com. You can also request free package pickup at usps.com. The Postal Service will pick up packages during regular mail delivery the next business day – and, unlike other shipping companies, there is no fee for this service. Postage stamps can also be purchased at 1-800-STAMP-24, thousands of banking ATMs and in more than 55,000 retail outlets across the nation.

If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact David H. Desrosiers, Manager, Consumer Affairs at (518) 452-2406 or david.h.desrosiers@usps.gov.

Sincerely,



Edward F. Phelan, Jr.
District Manager
Albany District



September 22, 2010

Postal Box Customer
Albany NY 12209

This is to inform you of the U.S. Postal Service's decision to permanently close the Delaware Station located at 332 Delaware Avenue in Albany New York. We advised you on October 19, 2009 of our intent to conduct a feasibility study and the final decision has been made. This office will be open and operational until December 31, 2010.

Because of the drastic decline in mail volume, the Postal Service is in a fiscal crisis and must take action to reduce the size of its retail and delivery network. By consolidating, streamlining and adjusting our operations, the Postal Service becomes a more efficient and effective organization.

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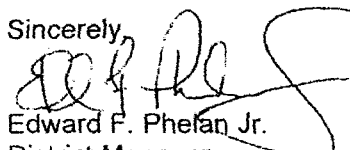
Local mail delivery will not be affected by this move. Full retail services will still be available in neighboring offices and our customers will continue to receive the same excellent service they always have.

If you are currently a Post Office Box holder at the Delaware Station, you will be able to continue to keep your current PO Box number and zip code at the Albany Main Post Office, 45 Hudson Ave in Albany.

However, a trip to the Post Office can be skipped altogether and you can purchase stamps and shipping labels online using the Postal Service's website, usps.com. You can also request free package pickup at usps.com. The Postal Service will pick up packages during regular mail delivery the next business day – and, unlike other shipping companies, there is no fee for this service. Postage stamps can also be purchased at 1.800.STAMP 24, thousands of banking ATMs and in more than 55,000 retail outlets across the nation.

If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact David Desrosiers, Manager Consumer Affairs at 518-452-2406.

Sincerely,



Edward F. Phelan Jr.
District Manager